

IV. Remarks and Conclusion

This application was filed with claims 15-31.

Claims 15-17 have been withdrawn.

Claims 18-31 (the apparatus claims) have been elected.

Claim 19 has been amended to correct an inadvertent/typographical error.

The election was discussed with Examiner Upton by telephone on September 20, 2004. It was concluded that the election should be made in writing.

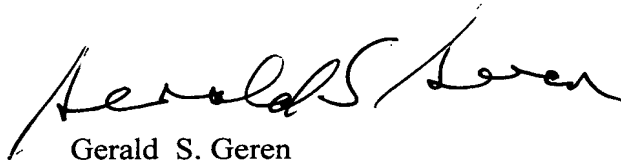
In addition, the cross-reference to related applications has been amended so as to reflect the subsequent issue of patent number 6,740,232.

Examination of this application with claims 18-31 is sought and allowance is urged.

If there are any questions or issues regarding this matter, please call applicant's attorney, Gerald S. Geren at (312) 214-4803.

Date: September 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald S. Geren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Gerald S. Geren
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